

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

On page 15, starting from the 1<sup>st</sup> line, please replace the first paragraph with the following paragraph:

---in the direction of column. The vertical transfer sections 24 are provided laterally on both sides of each column of photoreceptor devices 22. The vertical transfer section 24 separately reads the signal charge of the main region m and the signal charge of the sub-region s in the direction of column and transfers the signal charges to the horizontal transfer section 26. The horizontal transfer section 26 receives signal charges transferred from a plurality of vertical transfer sections 24 and transfers the received signal charges in the direction of row. The output section 400 outputs a voltage signal corresponding to the amount of the signal charge transferred from the vertical transfer section 26. Hereinafter, a plurality of voltage signals generated based on a plurality of charge signals from a plurality of main regions m are called a high-sensitivity signal H. A plurality of voltage signals generated based on a plurality of charge signals from a plurality of sub-regions s are called a low-sensitivity signal L. The high-sensitivity signal H and the low-sensitivity signal L are sent to the A/D imaging processor 30.---

On page 16, starting from the 1<sup>st</sup> line, please replace the first paragraph with the following paragraph:

--- signals in 12-bit gray scale, and a high-sensitivity digital signal Ha and a low-sensitivity digital signal La are generated respectively. The high-sensitivity digital signal Ha and the low-sensitivity digital signal La thus generated are sent to the signal processor 50.---

On page 16, please replace the third paragraph with the following paragraph:

--- The signal processor 50 performs optimization of the high-sensitivity digital signal Ha and a low-sensitivity digital signal La and synthesizes the high-sensitivity digital signal Ha and a low-sensitivity digital signal La thus optimized to generate image data. The signal processor 50 is connected to the bus 110. The image data generated is recorded onto a recording medium 105 connected to the image recording/playback section 100 via the compressor 60 or bus 110. The signal processor 50 will be detailed later.---

On page 26, please replace the third paragraph with the following paragraph:

---Multipliers 260, 270 are circuits for multiplying a high-sensitivity digital signal Hb and a low-sensitivity digital signal Lb obtained after gray-scale conversion by the weighting factors h\_gain and l\_gain, respectively. The high-sensitivity digital signal Hb and the low-sensitivity digital signal Lb which have undergone multiplication in the multipliers 260, 270 are summed up in an adder 280 to generate a synthesis signal S. The synthesis signal S output from the adder 280 is checked for an overflow by a limiter 290, then output as a final synthesis signal S from the optimum synthesis circuit 52 to the YC processor circuit 56.---